

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SCS-03

SCA-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 COME-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /103 W

----- 011125

O 051445Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7109

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13834

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE HOLDING IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 13771 (4 NOV 75 1515Z)

1. CALM STILL PREVAILS IN BEIRUT AS CEASEFIRE BEGINS TO TAKE HOLD. ONLY ISOLATED INCIDENTS REPORTED LAST 24 HOURS. TRAFFIC IS CIRCULATING AND THE CITY IS COMING TO LIFE AGAIN. LESS TIMID THAN YESTERDAY, PEOPLE ARE BUSILY RESTOCKING SUPPLIES. RADIO HAS APPEALED TO EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO REPORT TO WORK IMMEDIATELY SO THAT END OF OCTOBER SALARIES CAN BE PAID WHEN BANKS OPEN TOMORROW. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REMOVING ARMED ELEMENTS AND BARRICADES FROM STREETS.

2. HOWEVER, ARMA CONFIRMS HAS TOLD DATT THAT THE PHALANGE IS STILL IN THE HOLIDAY INN, THOUGH IT IS BELIEVE THEY HAVE ABANDONED THE OTHER HOTELS. ARMA SAW PHALANGE (HQ TYPES, NOT FIGHTERS) MID AFTERNOON TODAY, NOV 5, AT ENTRANCE OF HOLIDAY INN CHECKING ID CARDS OF PERSONS GOING IN. THEY REFUSED TO LEAVE UNTIL, AS THEY DECLARED, THE ARMY TAKES OVER AT THAT LOCATION. (THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT SMALL CONTINGENT OF ISF WAS ALREAD THERE.) UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT LEFTISTS AND/OR PALESTINIANS REMAIN AT MURR BUILDING MAY EXPLAIN PHALANGE ATTITUDE. IN ANY EVENT, SITUATION REFLECTS STILL-TENUOUS CHARACTER OF CEASEFIRE.

3. BEKAA VALLEY REPORTED QUIET. UNITS OF PLA CONTINUE TO BE SIGHTED IN THAT REGION. COAST ROAD AT DAMOUR, SOUTH OF BEIRUT, IS OPEN WITH NEAR-NORAL TRAFFIC.

4. FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL DAYS OIL TANKER TRUCKS ARE AGAIN MAKING DIESEL FUEL DELIVERIES TO BEIRUT FROM MEDRECO REFINERY NEAR SIDON. ALSO, BECAUSE TRIPOLITANIANS HAVE APPARENTLY NOW LIFTED OBJECTIONS TO DELIVERIES OUTSIDE TRIPOLI AREA FROM IPC REFINERY, PETROLEUM MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL BELIVES THAT, IF PEACE CONTINUES, A FEW TANKER TRUCKS MAY GET
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THROUGH TO BEIRUT BY THE END OF THE WEEK. BECAUSE COLD WEATHER IS NOW APPROACHING, PRIORITY WILL BE ACCORDED TO REPLENISHING BEIRUT'S NEARLY NIL HEATING FUEL SUPPLY. IF TANKER TRUCKS CANNOT GET THROUGH, LIMITED STORAGE CAPACITY AT DORA MAY FORCE CHOICE BETWEEN UNLOADING GASOLINE WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE WEEK OF NOV 10-15 AND UNLOADING HEATING OIL, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT DOWN FROM TRIPOLI BY TANKER.

5. AIRPORT REMAINS BUSY BUT HUBBUB OF RECENT DAYS DISSIPATING. MEA REPORTS SPACE AVAILABLE EVEN ON FLIGHTS TO ATHENS.

6. GOVT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT CABINET PLANS TO CONSIDER HOW TO REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY AT MEETING TODAY. LITTLE OTHER ACTIVITY IS SCHEDULED AMONG POLITICAL LEADERS. ABDALLAH YAFI, HEAD OF POLITICAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF "NATIONAL DIALOGUE", ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL RECONVENE "IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS".

7. WIDELY PUBLICIZED RECONCILIATION TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY BETWEEN PREMIER KARAME AND INTERIOR MINISTER CHAMOUN AT LUNCH IN BHAMDOUN HOME OF BOUTROS EL-KHOURY. ACCORDING TO KHOURY'S SON SELIM, WHO WAS PRESENT, KARAME AND CHAMOUN AGREED BROADLY THAT CABINET'S MAIN INTEREST IS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SECURITY. VIEWPOINTS OF TWO MEN CERTAINLY NOT FULLY RECONCILED, HOWEVER, ANY MORE THAN SIMILAR TRUCES BETWEEN THEM RECENTLY. AS WITH CEASEFIRE IN HOTEL DISTRICT, WE ASSESS THEIR ARMISTICE AS HOLDING BUT PRECARIOUS.
GODLEY

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